

JACK DOLLY

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/365,802, filed March 21, 2002.

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the field of jack dollies used for transporting hydraulic automobile jacks and more particularly, a jack dolly having four pivotally connected and cooperating arm members with at least four wheels for transporting a hydraulic automobile jack from a first location to a second location.

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Hydraulic automobile jacks are typically comprised of an elongate rectangular body with a pair of front wheels attached to a first end thereof and a pair of rear wheels attached to an opposing end thereof. An elongate cylindrical handle is attached to an internal hydraulic lift mechanism, which, upon pumping of the handle, raises a support plate from the rectangular body. A valve can be actuated

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to release the internal pressure generated by the pumping of the handle to lower the support plate. The front wheels are attached to the body by dedicated axles and thus rotate around the axles. The rear wheels comprise a caster assembly, wherein a bracket is pivotally attached at a first end to flanges located on opposing sidewalls of the jack body. The wheels rotate about an axle, which is disposed through a

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second end of said bracket. As such, the rotation of the front wheels allows the jack to be moved forward or backward in a straight linear motion but prevents the front end of the jack from being moved sideways. On the other hand, the rear wheels allow the rear end of the jack at which the handle is attached to be pivoted about the front wheels or otherwise to be moved in an arcuate motion. In this manner, the

motion of the front end of the jack, which bears the full weight of a motor vehicle when supporting said vehicle, is restricted, thereby providing a degree of safety.

As the jack is designed to function as a stable lifting and support mechanism for motor vehicles, the front and rear wheels are fabricated of metal into a relatively small diameter, which provides the necessary strength and stability so that the wheels will not collapse or buckle under the weight of a motor vehicle. However, the features that allow the wheels of the jack to safely support the jack and a motor vehicle lifted by said jack prevent the jack from being easily transported over relatively long distances, such as across the floor of a shop, over a road or parking lot, or into a transport vehicle. The metal construction and relatively small diameter of the wheels, for instance, makes the jack susceptible to becoming stuck in small cavities, depressions, or ruts in the shop floor, road, or parking lot or the movement of the jack is obstructed by small stones, pebbles, or uneven or raised floor, road or parking lot sections. This situation is further exacerbated by the limited mobility of the jack due to the means of attaching the front and rear wheels as described earlier and the relatively heavy weight of a typical hydraulic automobile jack

What is needed then to overcome the difficulties and limitations of transporting a hydraulic automobile jack is the provision of a jack dolly onto which a hydraulic automobile jack can be releasably secured and then transported, moved, or otherwise wheeled about with significantly less effort and difficulty than that required for transport of said jack without said jack dolly.

Numerous designs for hydraulic automobile jack dollies and stands have been provided in the prior art. Even though these designs may be suitable for the specific individual purposes to which they address, they would not be suitable for the

purposes of the present invention. These designs are exemplified by U.S. Patent No. 5,462,257, issued to Trowbridge on October 31, 1995; and U.S. Patent No. 6,199,826, issued to Nix on March 13, 2001 and are intended primarily to allow a hydraulic automobile jack to be moved more efficiently while said jack is
5 already positioned under a motor vehicle.

As such, it may be appreciated that there is a continuing need for a new and improved jack dolly that can be used to transport a hydraulic automobile jack over the floor of a shop, over a road or parking lot surface, or into a transport vehicle. In these respects, the present invention substantially departs from the
10 conventional concepts and designs of the prior art, and in so doing provides an apparatus that substantially fulfills this need. Additionally, the prior patents and commercial techniques do not suggest the present inventive combination of component elements arranged and configured as disclosed herein.

The present invention achieves its intended purposes, objects, and advantages
15 through a new, useful and unobvious combination of method steps and component elements, with the use of a minimum number of functioning parts, at a reasonable cost to manufacture, and by employing only readily available materials.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The primary object of the present invention and advantages of the present invention is to provide a jack dolly onto which a hydraulic vehicle jack can be releasably secured and then transported, moved, or otherwise wheeled about with 5 significantly less effort and difficulty than that required for transport of said jack.

A further object of the present invention to provide a low cost, easy to manufacture, and easy to market jack dolly for hydraulic vehicle jacks.

An even further object of the present invention is to provide an easy to use and versatile jack dolly for hydraulic automobile jacks.

10 The present invention fulfills the above and other objects by providing a jack dolly for transporting a hydraulic vehicle jack over the floor of a shop, over a road or parking lot surface, or into a transport vehicle. The jack dolly is comprised of two elongate rectangular front arm members and two elongate rectangular rear arm members with each front arm member pivotally attached at one end thereof to 15 a cooperating end of a rear arm member by a rod that is disposed in apertures located at cooperating ends of the front and rear arm members. A cylindrical collar is located at the end of each front arm member opposite to the end attached to a rear arm member. A wheel fork is disposed in pivotal engagement within said collar, and an axle with a wheel rotatably disposed on said axle is affixed to the 20 lower end of the fork. A rod is medially attached in perpendicular relation to the inside surface of each front arm member, and springs are secured at one end thereof to said rod.

An axle with a wheel rotatably disposed on said axle extends from the end of each rear arm member opposite to the end attached to a cooperating front arm

member. A rectangular plate with rod affixed thereto is attached to the inside surface of each rear arm member adjacent to the axle thereof.

The jack dolly of the present invention receives and supports above a ground or floor support surface a conventional hydraulic vehicle jack, which is modified 5 to be releasably secured to the jack dolly. The jack modification is comprised of a bore that is located at the top of the jack body and extends through the body of said jack and six rods attached in perpendicular relation to the exterior surface of opposed lateral sidewalls of the body of the jack. Three rods are attached to each sidewall.

10 The hydraulic vehicle jack is attached to the jack dolly by aligning the jack between the arm members and inserting the rod through the bore of the jack and through cooperating apertures at the ends of the front and rear arm members. Four springs are attached at a first end to the rods located on the front arm members and at a second end to rods located at the rear of the body of the jack. Two springs are 15 attached at a first end to the rods extending from the plates attached to the rear arm members and at a second end to rods located at the middle of the jack body, and two springs are attached at a first end to said rods extending from the plates attached to the rear arm members and at a second end to the front rods located at the front of the jack body.

20 The above and other objects, features and advantages of the present invention should become even more readily apparent to those skilled in the art upon a reading of the following detailed description in conjunction with the drawings wherein there is shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will become more fully understood from the following description of the preferred embodiment of the invention as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which
5 like reference characters refer to the same parts throughout different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention;

FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a dolly with the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a side elevation view of a dolly the present invention;

10 **FIG. 3** is a top plan view of a dolly of the present invention along line 1-1 of
FIG. 2;

FIG. 4 is a front elevation view of the jack dolly of the present invention along line 2-2 of **FIG. 2**;

15 **FIG. 5** is a partial cross sectional view of the collar assembly of the jack dolly of the present invention;

FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a hydraulic vehicle jack modified for use with the dolly and of the present invention; and

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of a the dolly of the present invention with the modified hydraulic vehicle jack secured thereto for transport.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

For purposes of describing the preferred embodiment, the terminology used in reference to the numbered components in the drawings is as follows:

5	10. Jack Dolly	42a, b. Axles
	12a, b. Front Arm Members	44a, b. Wheels
	14a, b. Collars	46. Bushing
	16a, b. Forks	48. Shaft
	18a, b. Bolts	50. Hydraulic Automobile
10	20a, b. Axles	Jack
	22a, b. Wheels	54. Handle
	24a, b. Rods	56. Rear Wheel
	26. Fastener	58. Front Wheel
	28. Springs	60. Load Support Plate
15	30. Rod	62. Aperture
	32. Sleeve	64. Rear Rod
	34a, b. Rear Arm Members	66. Middle Rod
	36a, b. Plates	68. Front Rod
	38. Fastener	70. Springs
	40a, b. Rods	72. Springs

20 Referring now to the drawings and, in particular, to FIG. 1 through FIG. 4 wherein there are illustrated a typical embodiment of the jack dolly 10, the jack dolly 10 is comprised of two elongate rectangular arm members 12a, b with cylindrical collars 14a, b that are attached to one end thereof. Wheel forks 16a, b are disposed in pivotal engagement within the interior of the collars 14a, b and secured thereto by bolts 18a, b. Axles 20a, are attached perpendicularly to the lower ends of the wheel forks 16a, b and wheels 22a, b are rotatably attached to said axles 20a, b. Each wheel 22a, b is comprised of a rim, which is attached to a cooperating axle 20a, b, and an inflatable rubber tire. Rods 24a, b are affixed medially to the inside surfaces of the front arm members 12a, b and extend therefrom in perpendicular relation to the longitudinal axis of said arm members 12a, b. A fastener 26 located on the outside surface of each front arm member 12a,

b secures the rods 24a, b to each front arm member 12a, b, respectively. Two springs 28 with hooked ends are attached at one end thereof to each rod 24a, b.

An elongate, cylindrical rod 30 with sleeves 32 is disposed within apertures located at the ends of the elongate front arm members 12a, b and through 5 apertures located at cooperating ends of two elongate rectangular rear arm members 34a, b. Rectangular plates 36a, b are attached by fasteners 38 to the ends of the rear arm members 34a, b opposite to the ends thereof attached to the elongate cylindrical rod 30. Rods 40a, b are affixed to the top end of said plates 36a, b and extend therefrom in perpendicular relation to the longitudinal axis of said plates 36a, b. 10 Axles 42a, b are affixed perpendicularly to the rear arm members 34a, b adjacent to the rectangular plates 36a, b. Wheels 44a, b are rotatably attached to the axles 42a, b with each wheel 44a, b comprised of a rim, which is attached to a cooperating axle 42a, b, and an inflatable rubber tire.

As the cylindrical rod 30 and sleeves 32 are disposed within apertures at 15 cooperating ends of the front 12a, b and rear 34a, b arm members, said front 12a, b arm members are pivotally attached to the rear 34a, b arm members and first cooperating front arm 12a and rear 34a arm members are aligned in parallel relation to second cooperating front arm 12b and rear 34b arm members.

Referring to FIG. 5, therein illustrated in partial cross sectional view is a 20 wheel fork 16a disposed within a cooperating collar 14a of a front arm member 12a. Circular bushings 46 are located at opposing ends of the collar 14a. A cylindrical shaft 48 is attached to the top end of the wheel fork 16a and is received within the collar 14a and bushings 46 and is attached to the collar 14a by the bolt 18a. In this manner, the wheel fork 16a by means of the shaft 48 can rotate with 25 respect to the collar 14a.

A hydraulic vehicle jack **50** is displayed in FIG. 6 as having a rectangular body **52**, pumping handle **54**, rear caster wheels **56**, front wheels **58**, and load support plate **60**. The jack **50** is modified with a pair of rear rods **64**, middle rods **66**, and front rods **68** attached to opposing lateral sidewalls of the jack body **52** and by an aperture bored through **62** located adjacent to the top edge of the body **52** in perpendicular relation to the longitudinal axis of said body **52**.

As illustrated in FIG. 7 the modified hydraulic automobile jack **50** is releasably secured to the jack dolly **10** by inserting the elongate cylindrical rod **30** through the aperture **62** of the body **52** of the jack **50** so that the jack **50** is pivotally attached to said dolly **10** and suspended above a floor or ground support surface. The jack **50** is prevented from rotating excessively upon the rod **30** by springs **28**, **70**, **72** attached to the dolly **10** and jack **50**. Four springs **28** are attached at a first end to rods **24a**, **b** and at a second end to the rear rods **64** (shown in phantom line) extending from the body **52** of the jack **50**. Two springs **70** are attached at a first end to rods **40a**, **b** extending from plates **36a**, **b** and at a second end to the middle rods **66** (shown in phantom line) extending from the jack body **52**, and two springs **72** are attached at a first end to said rods **40a**, **b** and at a second end to the front rods **68** (shown in phantom line) extending from said jack body **52**. In this manner, the jack **50**, secured to the jack dolly **10** as described can be wheeled about by the handle **54** to various locations and even into transport vehicles. In some cases, a pin or bolt can be inserted through an aperture located at the unattached end of the jack handle **54** for securing the jack **50** to the tow hitch of a vehicle for moving the jack **50** while said jack **50** is secured within the jack dolly **10**.

While a preferred embodiment of the invention has been illustrated and described in detail in the drawings and foregoing description, the same is to be considered as illustrative and not restrictive in character, it being understood that only the preferred embodiment has been shown and described and that all changes 5 and modifications that come within the spirit of the version of the invention are desired to be protected. With respect to the above description then, it is to be realized that the optimum dimensional relationships for the parts of the invention, to include variations in size, materials, shape, form, function and manner of operation, assembly and use, are deemed readily apparent and obvious to one skilled 10 in the art, and all equivalent relationships to those illustrated in the drawings and described in the specification are intended to be encompassed by the present invention.